



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY
COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 374A
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
<http://laccod.org>**

Wednesday, February 17, 2016

1:00 PM

AUDIO

Call to order. (16-0704)

President Carlos Benavides called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

2nd Vice President Wendy Welt Narro joined the meeting at 1:16 p.m.

Present: President Carlos Benavides, 1st Vice President Janet A. Neal, 2nd Vice President Wendy Welt Narro, Treasurer Lourdes Caracoza, Commissioner Allan Buck, Commissioner Edward A. Colley, Commissioner Rosa Maria Chaturvedi, Commissioner John R. James, Commissioner Steve Miller, Commissioner Peggie Reyna, Commissioner Rita Tomassian-Hopkins and Commissioner John B. Troost

Absent: Commissioner Maria Mustelier-Parrish, Commissioner Hector Ochoa, Commissioner Dee Pinchbeck, Commissioner Sheila D. Wright and Commissioner Wan Chun Chang

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Approval of Minutes from the meeting of January 20, 2016. (16-0939)

On motion of Commissioner John Troost, seconded by 1st Vice President Janet Neal, the Minutes of January 20, 2016 were approved

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

2. Recommendation and Approval to send a letter to the Board of Supervisors to assist in funding the Commission on Disabilities' Scholarship Programs as submitted by President Carlos Benavides and Educational Committee Chair, John Troost. (16-0577)

On motion of 1st Vice President Janet Neal, seconded by Commissioner

Peggie Reyna, and unanimously carried, this item was approved.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORTS

3. Receive and File the Accessibility Report by Joanna Lemus, Accessibility Programs Administrator and provide input to the Public Participation Plan by Bronwen Keiner, Senior Community Relations Officer for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (METRO). (16-0754)

Joanna Lemus, Accessibility Programs Administrator of METRO, distributed and reported on Metro's Draft Public Participation Plan that the Federal Transit Administration requires METRO to obtain input from the public every three years as a part of its Title VI Program. She also distributed METRO Booklets containing Flash Cards that can be used as a communication tool for riders who have difficulty communicating the bus route and basic information to drivers.

Treasurer Caracoza stated that METRO rarely attends Metro's outreach meetings instead they sends consultants and the Participation Plan that was distributed earlier is not being disseminated to communities well enough. Ms. Lemus reported the Participation Plan is online and she offered to bring a representative to the March 16th meeting to thoroughly discuss the Plan.

President Carlos Benavides, 1st Vice President Janet Neal, Commissioners Lourdes Caracoza, Steve Miller and Rosa Chaturvedi provided their comments.

Daniel Garcia, member of the public, addressed the Commission on METRO issues.

After discussion, by Common Consent, there being no objection, the METRO written action plan was requested to be placed in the agenda for March 16, 2016 meeting.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

4. Receive and File the Report Back by Mike Greenwood, Vice President of Operations on Access Services Incorporated's emergency preparedness plan (Continued from the meeting of January 20, 2016). (16-0383)

Mike Greenwood of Access Services, Inc. provided written information on questions addressed by the Commission on emergency

preparedness plan. Since the last meeting, Access Services developed a plan to address the impending of El Nino forecast for Southern California and other emergencies. Dedicated staff has been assigned to monitor pending disasters and the Operations Monitoring Center (OMC) has been tested in several languages by emails, telephone and text messages. OMC is capable of simultaneously reaching approximately 100,000 Access riders. Mr. Greenwood reported OMC staffs are in place to handle surge calls due to extreme weather. Also, drivers and riders will receive weather advisory via cell phones. When needed, Access Services can double the size its staff in a matter of hours and field staff to help OMC. He further stated Access has devised a back-up plan for riders in cases the driver is delayed from picking-up a customer due to weather or an unforeseen disaster. In case of flooding, route supervisors will be sent out to inspect the affected areas. Evacuation plan are managed by the County.

Following discussions, President Carlos Benavides, 1st Vice President Janet Neal, 2nd Vice President Wendy Welt Narro, Commissioners Ed Colley, Rosa Chaturvedi, Rita Tomassian-Hopkins and Allan Buck provided their comments.

In response to Commissioner Reyna's questions, Mr. Greenwood will obtain additional information from Commissioner Reyna regarding the current devices used to communicate with the deaf and hearing impaired.

Daniel Garcia, member of the public, addressed the Commission.

President Carlos Benavides thanked Mr. Greenwood for his informative report.

By Common Consent, there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

5. Receive and Rile the Access Services Incorporated report by Louis Burns, Access Services Customer Support Administrator. (16-0988)

Louis Burns, Access Services Customer Support Administrator, spoke about having someone attend the next meeting to speak on the service contract changes. He further stated that Mr. Geoffrey Okamoto, Access Services, manages the CARE Evaluation Center Contractors and that Dr. Stanley Taylor presentation on CARE Evaluators is scheduled for the March 16, 2016 meeting.

By Common Consent, there being no objection, this item was continued to March 16, 2016 meeting.

6. Receive and File the Access Services, Incorporated Board of Directors meeting report for February 2016. (16-0941)

1st Vice President Janet Neal read the Access Services Board report for February, 2016, prepared by Commissioner John Troost. This item was received and filed.

Daniel Garcia, member of the public, addressed the Commission.

7. Receive and File the President Report for the Month of February 2016. (16-0943)

President Carlos Benavides complimented Commissioner John James for doing a great job last year as Chair of Nomination Committee. The President asked Commissioner John James if he would serve as Chair for 2016. On motion of 2nd Vice President Wendy Welt Narro, seconded by 1st Vice President Janet Neal, the nomination of Commissioner John James, as Chair of the Nomination Committee for 2016 Election of Officers was approved.

President Benavides also announced the appointment of Commissioner John Troost as the Commission's Historian because of his 40 year tenure as Commission on Disabilities Commissioner and the wealth of information he bestows.

After discussion, there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

8. Receive and File the Events and Transportation Committee Reports as submitted by Chair, Janet Neal. (16-0392)

Events/Transportation Committee

Chair Janet Neal reported she referred Imelda Gopez-So, a member of the public, to Access Services so that Ms. Gopez-So may address her concerns. Chair Janet Neal also, reported that Access Services is not providing taxi coupons and maybe Uber and Lift can take up the slack.

Chair Neal reported that the Event's Committee has contacted the Omni Hotel to reserve the space and date for the Commission's 2016 Access Awards Luncheon and asked Commissioners to submit their

nominations. Staff person Emma De Jesus stated once approved Nomination forms will be provided by staff to Commissioners.

After discussion, by Common Consent, there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

- 9. Receive and File the Ad-Hoc Policy Committee Report as submitted by Commissioner Steve Miller. (16-0989)**

Chair Steve Miller reported the Ad-Hoc Policy Committee (Committee) meeting held prior to today's meeting was a great success. The draft letter prepared by the committee and reviewed and edited by Ms. Olyvia Rodriguez, Chief Executive Office, was discussed.

On motion of Commissioner John James, seconded by Commissioner Ed Colley, the draft letter with Chair Miller's amendments and to work with staff to expeditiously deliver for President's signature was unanimously carried and approved.

Chair Miller would also like to recommend to the Committee review other issues such as mental health, homelessness and unemployment rate for people with disabilities. 1st Vice President Janet Neal suggested the Ad-Hoc Policy Committee should consider becoming a Standing Committee. Chair Miller suggested discussing being a Standing Committee at the next Ad-Hoc Policy Committee meeting. Staff Emma De Jesus clarified to the Commission about the requirements of the Standing Committee versus being an Ad-Hoc Committee.

Robert Coto, member of the public, addressed the Commission on Regional Centers' funding for social activities.

Daniel Garcia, member of the public, addressed the Commission on the Documents not being attached to the agenda.

After discussion, by Common Consent, there being no objection, this item will be continued to the March 16, 2016 meeting.

- 10. Receive and File the Executive Committee Report as submitted by President, Carlos Benavides. (16-0950)**

President Carlos Benavides reported that \$3,500 of the Commission's Trust Fund Account will be reserved for 2016 Scholarship Program. His

goal this year is to funds 14 scholarships and for 2017 is 21 scholarships. He reported the Commission submitted a letter to the Board of Supervisors requesting donations in support of the Commission on Disabilities Scholarship Program. Also discussed (once approved), was having staff distribute scholarship applications via website, email or fax to Commissioners.

Treasurer Lourdes Caracoza will speak to Rick Macaia, Accounting Services Head, Executive Officer of the Board of Supervisors Fiscal Services Division, regarding instructions on how to allocate funds received from the annual awards luncheons into specific categories.

After discussion, by Common Consent, there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUUPRTING DOCUMENT](#)

III. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

11. Matters not posted on the agenda, to be discussed and (if requested), placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the authority, of matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (16-5701)

No matters were posted.

Public Comment

12. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (16-0940)

Daniel Garcia and Robert Coto, members of the public, addressed the Commission.

Adjournment

13. Adjournment of the Meeting February 17, 2016. (16-0396)

On motion of Commissioner Ed Colley, seconded by 2nd Vice President Wendy Welt Narro, the meeting adjourned at 3:11 p.m. in memory of Former Commissioner Ernest Hamilton, Texas Senator Barbar Jordan, and track and field athletes Gail Deavers, Jackie Joyner Kersee, and Florence Griffith Joyner.